The Wise man of Alqueria

It had been rumoured for a long time that there is a wise man in Alqueria, as unlikely as that may seem the source of the gossip was reliable or as reliable as anything in the Village could ever be. People would look at one another in the street, wondering “Is that the wise man?” apart from Loco Paco who could never be taken for a wise man, in fact to walk in a straight line was a mammoth task for him.

If a wise man did exist he was certainly needed. The government of Alqueria was trying to govern without using authority which would only be ignored anyway. Governing by referendum was a possible working alternative. Unfortunately Alqueria is fiercely partisan. At state of undeclared war exists between the Newcomer's Barrio and the Hill People's. Any referendum on any matter is seen as part of this rivalry with both barrios taking contrary positions irrespective of issue. With half the population living in each barrio deadlocks are common place. Certainly if a wise man existed then a meritocracy may just work.

The task was to find him. Being wise he wouldn't of course associate with the dysfunctional idiots that stalk the streets of Alqueria, why he was still living in the Pueblo is another mystery. It was suggested that he would walk about with a glowing light-bulb hovering above his head but this just goes to show has desperately Alqueria needs a wise man. Why is he so wise? Would the wise man consume alarming quantities of Remitroot Whisky every Saturday night and collapse in a comatose stupor? The vast majority of Alquerian adults thought this extremely wise. Would the wise man channel all his energies and genius into blind hatred towards the opposing barrio? If not then he didn't sound very wise at all according to the Alquerian model.

But the wise man had to be found to bring sanity and order to the Village. Every male was sent an intelligence test in the form of a questionnaire through the post. Many thought it was a summons and went into hiding, Sancho Alvares thought it was a recipe and tried to to cook it. Loco Paco failed to open the envelope and Pedro El

Gordo thought it was his call-up papers and reported to the Cadíz basic training unit of the Spanish Legion.

Did they ever find their wise man?
The search continues. Wise is relative and relative to the other inhabitants wise would mean the ability to do colouring in but struggling with joined up writing.